



INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

23 July 1968

In reply refer to:
I-23982/68

Honorable Richard Helms
Director, Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. - 20505

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Instructions on File

Dear Dick:

SNIE 11-13-68 contains a number of statements whose implications are not fully spelled out because they are not sufficiently precise. It would be most helpful, therefore, if CIA and DIA could examine the following questions and supply jointly agreed answers to them. It is realized that this will be no easy task, but the importance of greater precision in these areas is such that we would like the agreed answers within a week. I am addressing a similar request to General Carroll.

The questions are as follows, referring to Paragraph numbers of the SNIE:

1. Paragraph 8 - What is the meaning of "substantial" in the last line? With what degree of confidence is it possible to talk of what ranges of numbers? In other words, we wish a quantitative estimate of the extent to which confidence increases as numbers increase?
2. Paragraph 11 - We would like clarification on the last sentence. Into how many MR/IRBM silos could ICBMs be installed without our having high confidence of detecting the fact? Would the Soviets be able to conceal the placing of ICBMs on soft MR/IRBM sites?
3. Paragraph 14 - What is the quantitative meaning of "substantial" in the last line? How does confidence relate to quantity?
4. Paragraphs 12-14 - The SNIE does not consider off-road systems. Can CIA-DIA give us views regarding off-road systems? Here again, we would like an estimate of how confidence relates to quantity.
5. Paragraph 16 - What is the quantitative meaning of "modest" and "more extensive"? Here again we would like an estimate of the relationship between confidence and numbers.
6. Paragraphs 31, 32 and 35 - Here again, we would like to know how confidence relates to numbers. In Paragraph 35 how do you define "some time" in the last sentence?

Sincerely yours,